

**Responses to HHS Committee questions at 6/9/03 presentation:
Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association (GMDCA)
June 18, 2003**

I. How do we know that investments in child care make a difference for children's school-readiness and family success? (CM Zimmermann)

A. National Research:

A major national study, "Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes" showed that young children receiving poor quality child care were less prepared for school and tended to have less success in the early phases of school than students who received high quality care in their preschool years. The study was conducted starting in 1993 and published in 1999 by researchers from the University of Colorado, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, UCLA, and Yale University.

"In families where both parents work full-time to make ends meet, the children can spend as many waking hours in child care as they do with their parents. This study underscores the importance of high quality child care in laying the developmental foundation for every child to enter school ready to learn. I urge policymakers at all levels of government to redouble their efforts to make quality child care opportunities available to hard-working American families," declared former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

The overall findings of the study were that:

1. Children who attended higher quality child care centers scored higher on measures of both cognitive and social skills in child care and through the transition into school.
2. High quality child care continues to positively predict children's performance well into their school careers.
3. Children who have traditionally been at risk for not doing well in school are affected more by the quality of child care experiences than other children.
4. The quality of child care classroom practices was related to children's cognitive development, while the nature of the preschool teacher-child relationship influenced children's social development through the early school years.

B. Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) - School Readiness Data:

Scores from the Minneapolis Public Schools Beginning Kindergarten Assessment, the district's benchmark exam for children entering kindergarten, showed that children in child care centers are better prepared for kindergarten than children from the general population.

MPS Beginning Kindergarten Assessment comparisons - 2000*

BKA element	District N=3,278	Daycare Centers N=270
Says full name	76%	89%
Shows where to read	67%	83%
Knows print moves left to right	49%	69%
Says numbers to 20	62%	77%
Orders numbers 0-9	42%	55%

*From MPS School Readiness Collaborative

C. Parent survey data & quotes:

Survey of parents receiving child care assistance conducted by GMDCA, July-December 2002.

How respondents were helped by child care assistance program:

- 75.8% - helped me keep child care for my children
- 73.0% - helped me keep my job
- 64.0% - my life is less stressful
- 55.4% - helped me get better child care for my children

Quotes from Child Care Assistance Parent's Survey:

"I am grateful for (the child care assistance) program. Child care without this grant costs more per month than my house payment . . . which is equal to 60% of my take home pay, so there would be nothing left for groceries, gas and other needs. Thanks for your help!"

"It's given me the opportunity to show my children that I can be successful on my own. They have been through such monumental changes in their young lives that the teachers, the daycare itself and [I] have been the only constants in their lives. It promotes stability. I couldn't be successful in anyway without this program."

"Now I can leave my son and work with peace of mind because I know that he is safe and is also around other kids where he can play and learn at the same time."

"As a single mom with three kids, my daycare costs are much more than my income. Without child care assistance I would be unable to support my family's basic needs."

"If I was not getting this help, the quality of my child's life would not be as great as it is now. I can afford to live in a safe neighborhood and excellent day care for my daughter. Thank you!"

CDBG/City of Minneapolis investments (2002):

- **Renovation Loan Program** – helped 38 programs serving low-income children create healthier child care environments by reducing moisture, mold and other hazards that jeopardize children's healthy development.
- **Parent's Assistance fund** – helped 76 families stay employed while waiting for state basic sliding fee child care assistance or with short-term emergency child care assistance.
- **Provider and Community Support** – helped over 300 child care providers through training, consultation, site visits, etc.
- **Subcontracts** – GMDCA subcontracted with 1) Early Childhood Resource and Training Center to build child care capacity in the African immigrant community through training and support to more than 60 child care providers, 2) Lyndale Neighborhood Association to support a Latino Provider Network serving 20 child care providers, and 3) Joyce Nursery School, to support a high-quality bi-lingual Spanish/English preschool program for more than 40 children.
- **Child care grants** – 10 new providers helped with training and equipment to increase quality.
- **Program Administration** – supports child care system infrastructure at GMDCA.
- **Healthy Environments for Early Learning:** From 1998-2003, with a city-initiated HUD grant, GMDCA completed window replacements and other lead hazard reductions in over 124 family child care homes. Using the City's renovation loan funds, GMDCA conducted 57 Indoor Air-Quality Assessments and interventions in Minneapolis child care homes to reduce asthma triggers.

II. How does workforce participation data for Minnesota women and women with children compare to nationwide data? (CM Lilligren)

The Minnesota Department of Economic Security reports in *Minnesota Economic Trends*, January 2003, that the state's workforce participation rate increased at twice the rate of the nation's from 1970 to 2000. At 66%, the state's workforce participation by women is now the highest in the country compared to 58% nationwide. In 2000, 79% of Minnesota mothers' were in the workforce compared to 69% nationwide; and women with young children represent the fastest growing sector.

III. How are child care providers affected by recent legislative changes? (CM Zerby)

A. Increase of licensing fees for Centers:

Licensed Capacity	Old Fee	New Fee
25	\$102.50	\$ 450
50	\$177.50	\$ 600
100	\$327.50	\$ 900
250	\$777.50	\$2,000

B. Reimbursement rates paid to providers for child care assistance clients are frozen at 2002 levels until 2005:

Estimated annual revenue loss per child:

Type of Child Care	2003-04	2004-05
Centers	\$312	\$1,054
Family Child Care	\$280	\$ 746

IV. How are families affected by recent legislative changes?

Examples of child care assistance co-payment increases for families:

Family Size	Hourly wage	Annual Earnings	Previous Monthly co-pay	New monthly co-pay
Two	\$10.00	\$20,800	\$70/mo.	\$124/mo.
Three	\$13.00	\$27,040	\$102/mo.	\$170/mo.
Four*	\$20.00	\$41,600	\$361/mo.	\$605/mo.

*2 adults working at \$10/hr. with 2 children or 1 adult working at \$20/hr. with 3 children.

It is likely *ALL* families using child care will face higher costs and more limited child care choices.